



News for Immediate Release

June 12, 2006

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**DWR Recommends \$21.5 Million in Water Desalination Grants,  
Schedules Public Workshop**

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Staff is recommending that 23 water desalination projects be awarded \$21.5 million in Proposition 50 grants.

The funds will be used by local agencies, water districts, academic and research institutions for construction, demonstration projects, research and development, and feasibility studies to increase the development of new water supplies using water desalination technologies.

The projects recommended for funding include desalination facilities in the San Francisco Bay Area and in Monterey and Ventura counties. Pilot projects in Long Beach, Los Angeles, Contra Costa County, Kern County, and Imperial County are among those nominated to receive funds under this cycle of the desalination grants program. Research activities at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, the University of California, Los Angeles, and the Colorado School of Mines are included in the proposed awards, as are feasibility studies by agencies in the San Luis Obispo and San Diego counties.

DWR will hold a public workshop in Sacramento on June 23 at 2:00 p.m. to inform those interested of the draft staff funding recommendations and to present information on the next steps for awarding and contracting.

Funding for the projects is available through Proposition 50, the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act passed by voters in 2002. Chapter 6(a) of Proposition 50 (Water Code Section 79545(a)) authorized DWR to administer a \$50 million desalination grant program. The grant program aims to assist local public agencies with the development of new local potable water supplies through the construction of feasible brackish water and ocean water desalination projects and help advance water desalination technology. This is the second round of funding under this grant program.

In March 2006, DWR received 49 eligible applications. The total funds requested by these applications amount to approximately \$57.5 million while the total cost of the 49 proposed

projects is \$543.5 million. The available \$21.5 million under the second desalination grant cycle is proposed to fund 23 of these projects. Approximately \$11.2 million of the available funds will support ocean and bay water desalination related projects and \$10.3 million will support brackish water desalination related projects. The term “brackish” describes water with a high salinity level, found in some surface and groundwater supplies.

A Desalination Review Panel was formed to help the State review the applications. The panel, comprised of members representing local, State, and federal agencies and other stakeholders, evaluated the proposals using the criteria established for the grant program.

A complete list of the awarded projects and other related information is at:

<http://www.owue.water.ca.gov/recycle/index.cfm>.

### **Workshop Date and Location**

Friday, June 23, 2006, 2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.  
Department of Water Resources  
Bonderson Bldg., Conference Room, 2nd floor  
901 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

### **Workshop Agenda (2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.)**

- Welcome and Introduction
- Summary of the Review Process
- Announcement of Recommended Projects for Funding
- Public Comments and Questions
- Adjourn

Public comments on DWR’s desalination project funding recommendations are due by June 26, 2006. Interested parties do not need to attend the workshop to submit comments. Comments may be sent to:

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The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

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